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Los Angeles River dredging gets \$1.5 million from federal stimulus

By Pamela Hale-Burns, Staff Writer

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LONG BEACH - Dredging at the mouth of the Los Angeles River is included in the latest stimulus package announced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District.

Included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding is \$1,580,000 for the Los Angeles River Estuary at the mouth of the Los Angeles River in Long Beach.

The Corps will dredge material that flowed down the Los Angeles River and has been deposited in the Federal Navigation Channel. The project, which began in 2007 as a result of the heavy shoaling in 2005 but was suspended due to a lack of funding, will allow for safe navigation, officials said.

"Continuing the work on this project is critical to the safe navigation of vessels within the estuary and those that support the City of Avalon on Catalina Island," said Col. Thomas H. Magness IV, commander of the Los Angeles District.

The Act, referred to as the "stimulus package," appropriates nearly \$184 million for the district to continue studies, complete construction work and conduct operations and maintenance for two dozen projects throughout the region. The act, which President Barack Obama signed into law on Feb. 17, is intended to help in the recovery of the U.S. economy.

"We are very pleased to receive Recovery Act funds to move forward on a number of critical projects and help our fellow citizens in the district," Magness said. "The funding will allow us to provide much-needed jobs in today's difficult economy."

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, D-CA) praised the announcement that California will receive \$360,271,250 as part of the recently passed economic recovery package for crucial flood control, dredging and wetlands restoration projects in the state which will create jobs.

"This important funding will help put Californians to work while improving our state's infrastructure protecting our communities from floods, restoring wetlands and bolstering local economies," Boxer said.

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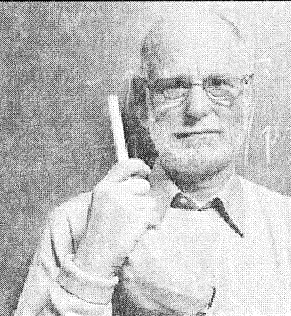
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